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Habitat restoration creates jobs, boosts local economies
***New Ecotrust report says restoration created 6,483 jobs in Oregon,
generated \$977.5 million in economic activity from 2001-2010***

Portland, Ore., August 23, 2012 – Ecotrust released [data today](#) that demonstrates how watershed and fish habitat restoration in Oregon creates jobs. Ecotrust found that restoration projects generated \$977.5 million in economic activity and as many as 6,483 jobs between 2001 and 2010.

“Restoration can drive economic development and job creation, particularly in rural communities that have suffered from persistently high unemployment rates,” said Spencer B. Beebe, president and founder of Ecotrust. “And, unlike in many other sectors of our economy, restoration jobs can’t be outsourced to far-off places.”

Restoration projects create jobs for construction workers, landscapers, heavy equipment operators, and technical experts such as engineers and wildlife biologists. Restoration projects also create demand for local businesses, such as plant nurseries, quarries, and others.

Restoring habitat also benefits the economy in the long term. Habitat improvements intended to bolster fish runs promise to increase sport and commercial fishing opportunities in the coming years-- already big business in Oregon.

“Habitat restoration jobs pay dividends twice, first in creating good, local jobs immediately, and then, for many decades to come, through increased benefits from fisheries, tourism and resiliency for coastal communities,” said Eric Schwaab, assistant administrator for fisheries for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. NOAA provides technical expertise and funding to restore coastal, marine, and migratory fish habitat in Oregon and around the nation.

A recent national study published in *Marine Policy* analyzing job creation and other economic impacts from NOAA restoration projects found that an average of 17 jobs were created for \$1 million invested. That rate of job creation is significantly higher than other industries, including coal, natural gas, or road and bridge construction.

Congressman Earl Blumenhauer, who represents Oregon's 3rd district and recently introduced HR 6249, the "Water Protection and Reinvestment Act," a bill that calls for investment in clean water infrastructure across the nation, commented: "For too long, we have treated our rivers and waterways like machines to the detriment of water quality and quantity. Investing in restoration not only improves habitat for fish and wildlife, it creates jobs and bring much needed revenue to local communities. Oregon has tremendous opportunities for restoration that can serve as a model for the rest of the nation."

A recent University of Oregon report found that an average of 90 cents of every dollar spent on restoration stays in the state, and 80 cents of every dollar spent stays in the county where a project is located. For example, of the nearly \$400,000 invested to restore Little Butte Creek in Southern Oregon from 2009–2011, 72 percent was spent in Jackson County, and 97 percent was expended in Oregon. Over half of those dollars went to salaries that directly benefit Oregonians.

Mike Herrick, Owner of Aquatic Contracting said, "Over the last 10 years, restoration projects have allowed us to provide sustainable livings for our employees. They can use their skills in construction and feel good about what they are doing. We have grown from just a couple of employees to as many as 20. Without this funding we would not be able to provide these opportunities and support the local economies where we work."

To learn more about the Restoration Economy, visit our [website](#). For access to the Ecotrust report, photos and videos of the restoration economy in action throughout the Pacific Northwest, media contacts, and other resources, please visit the NOAA Restoration Center's Labor Day [web portal](#).

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About Ecotrust

Over nearly 20 years, Ecotrust has converted \$80 million in grants into more than \$500 million in capital for local people, businesses, and organizations from Alaska to California. Ecotrust's many innovations include co-founding the world's first environmental bank, starting the world's first ecosystem investment fund, creating a range of programs in fisheries, forestry, food, farms and children's health, and developing new scientific and information tools to improve social, economic and environmental decision-making. Ecotrust works locally in ways that promise hope abroad, and it honors and supports the wisdom of Native and First Nation leadership in its work. To learn more about Ecotrust, visit us [online](#), and join us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

About NOAA

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and our other [social media channels](#). More information about NOAA is available at: <http://www.noaa.gov>.